Changes in agricultural land use

†1184. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the use of agricultural land is being changed on a large scale in various States of the country;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that agricultural land is decreasing due to change in its utilization;

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(e) whether Government would formulate a National Land Use Policy to ban the change in the utilization of agricultural land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) There is an increase under non agricultural uses of the land in the last 5 years from 23.47 million ha. in 1999-00 to 24.49 million ha. in 2003-04. During the same period there has been marginal decline in agricultural land from 184.17 million ha. to 183.39 million ha.

(d) to (e) Land is a State subject and, therefore, it is for States to bring about suitable legislation regarding regulation of conversion of cultivable land for any other purposes. State Land use Boards have been constituted in all States and Union Territories except Uttranchal, Jharkhand and Chattisgarh, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tripura, Goa and Union Territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Pondichery have legislation for checking diversion of agricultural land for non agricultural purposes. State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Assam have issued executive orders to check the diversion of good agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.